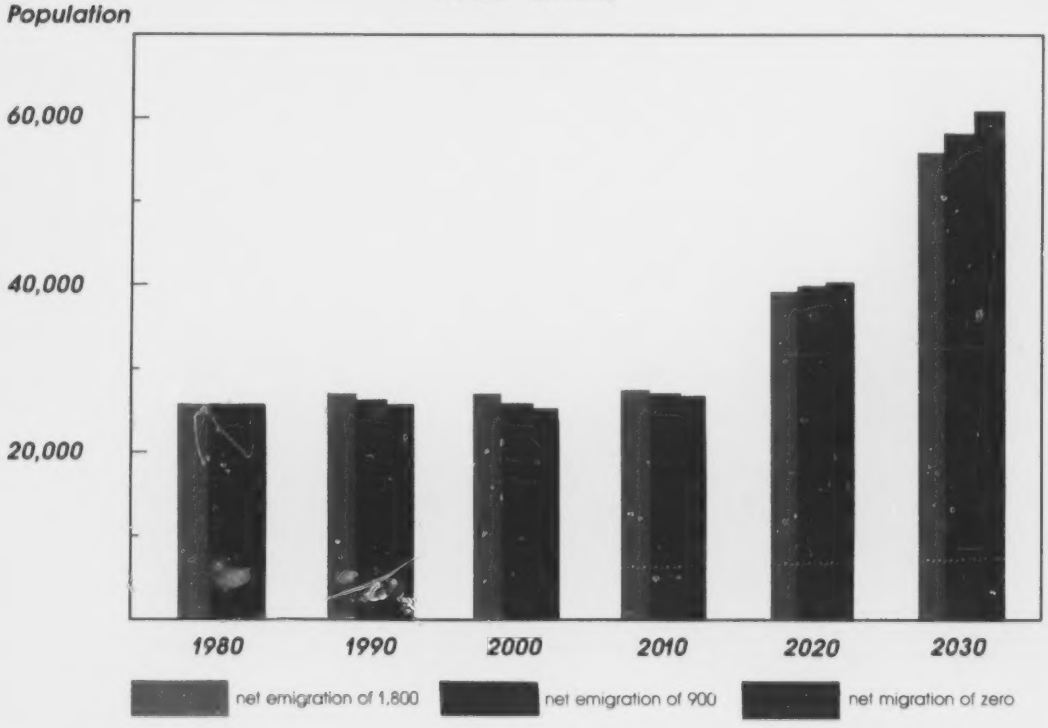
Figure 5: Elderly Population (65 or Older) in Barbados, 1980–2030



Conclusion: As Barbados prepares to enter the 21st century, it is in a unique demographic situation. Although the country is considered a developing one, its population statistics all reflect the demographic behaviour of a developed nation. Yet these changes in fertility and mortality are recent, while emigration is a historically accepted fact of life. Clearly, Barbados cannot continue to grow for much longer. The current age distribution almost guarantees that school enrollments will fall over the next 20 years, that the size of the labour force will increase over the next 20 years before leveling off and then declining, and that the elderly population will grow substantially after the year 2010.

Together, the population size and age distribution will have a tremendous impact on all aspects of the economic and social life of Barbadians for the foreseeable future. If growth is to be curtailed, and even ended, in the near future, both fertility and migraiton must be kept in delicate balance.

Appendices

Table A: Population of Barbados at Census Dates, by Sex, 1844–1980

Year	Total	Male	Female
1844	122,198	—	—
1851	135,939	62,272	73,667
1861	152,727	70,799	81,928
1871	162,042	73,452	88,590
1881	171,860	77,253	94,607
1891	182,867	81,657	101,210
1911	172,337	70,577	101,760
1921	156,774	63,421	93,353
1946	193,680	86,300	107,380
1960	232,820	105,730	127,090
1970*	237,701	112,034	125,667
	(235,229)	(110,470)	(124,759)
1980*	247,129	117,233	129,896
	(244,228)	(115,771)	(128,457)

*Bracketed figures represent the noninstitutionalized population, on which census tabulations are based.

Table B: Mortality Indicators in Barbados, by Sex, 1920–71

Year	Infant Mortality Rates		Life Expectancy	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1920–22	293.00	273.53	28.50	31.90
1945–47	159.15	155.47	49.17	52.94
1950–52	143.11	129.32	53.41	58.00
1959–61	77.80	65.58	62.74	67.43
1969–71	46*		65.84	70.88

*Both sexes, 1970

Table C: Current and Projected Population of Barbados, 1980–2030

Scenario	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
A	244,228	246,017	242,803	231,507	214,174	186,667
B	244,228	251,894	257,386	256,124	249,312	233,325
C	244,228	256,173	265,900	269,735	269,126	259,680
D	244,228	266,317	288,967	307,912	323,994	332,910

Table D: Current and Projected Population of Barbados, 1980–2030, under Alternative Scenarios

Scenario	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
E	244,228	261,926	279,962	293,167	302,050	302,650
F	244,228	241,852	234,783	219,031	196,493	163,853
G	244,228	256,757	263,593	265,232	264,274	254,298

E: TFR of 1.7, net emigration of zero
F: TFR of 1.7, net emigration of 1,800
G: TFR of 2.4, net migration of 1,800

Table E: Current and Projected School-Age Population (5–14) in Barbados, 1980–2030

Scenario	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
A	51,294	37,575	36,649	28,697	22,238	17,153
B	51,294	37,742	36,883	31,293	25,640	22,101
C	51,294	39,826	41,186	35,800	31,474	28,643
D	51,294	42,074	45,707	42,897	41,006	40,087

Table F: Current and Projected Labour Force in Barbados, 1980–2030

Scenario	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
A	103,625	118,808	123,971	121,482	107,188	83,210
B	103,625	123,870	135,447	138,291	129,597	110,822
C	103,625	123,870	136,218	142,410	137,233	122,732
D	103,625	127,878	148,459	162,922	167,231	162,163

Table G: Current and Projected Elderly Population (65 or Older) in Barbados, 1980–2030

Scenario	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
A	25,684	26,831	26,740	27,214	39,113	55,615
B and C	25,684	26,200	25,950	27,016	39,753	58,287
D	25,684	25,568	25,160	26,816	40,393	60,958

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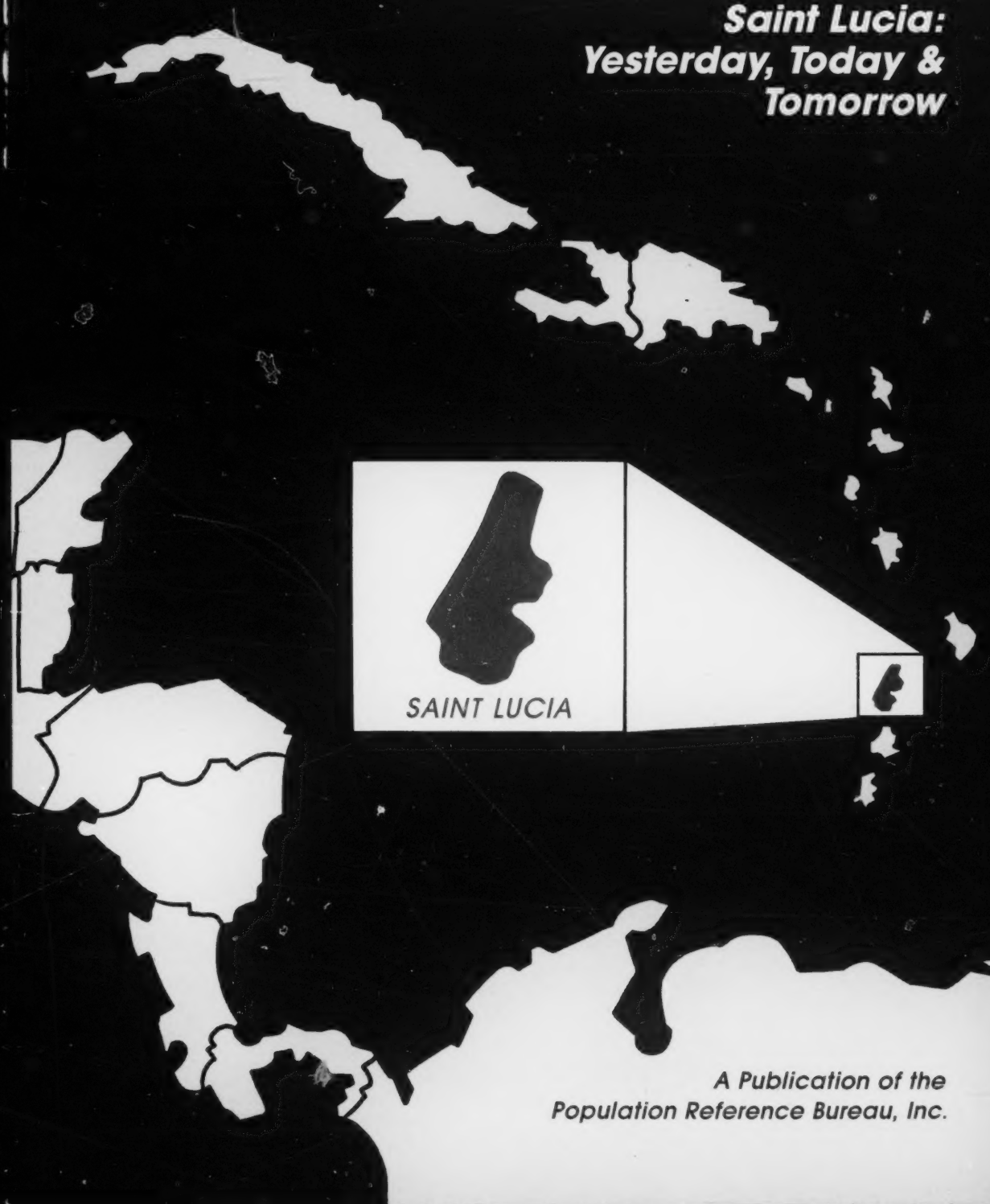

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Saint Lucia: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

by Leon F. Bouvier
January 1984

Saint Lucia Yesterday 3
Saint Lucia Today 5
Saint Lucia Tomorrow 7

Table 1: Population of Saint Lucia, 1843–1921 3
Table 2: Permanent Saint Lucian-Born Immigrants Admitted to the United States, 1960–79 4
Table 3: Crude Birth and Death Rates in Saint Lucia, 1977–82 5
Table 4: Percent Distribution of Population by Age-Group in Saint Lucia, 1980–2030 10

Figure 1: Age-Sex Distribution of Saint Lucia, 1980 6
Figure 2: Population of Saint Lucia, 1980–2030 8
Figure 3: School-Age Population (5–14) in Saint Lucia, 1980–2030 11
Figure 4: Labour Force in Saint Lucia, 1980–2030 12
Figure 5: Elderly Population (65 or Older) in Saint Lucia, 1980–2030 13

Appendices

Table A: Population and Crude Birth and Death Rates in Saint Lucia, 1946–70 16
Table B: Components of Population Change in Saint Lucia, 1946–60 16
Table C: Current and Projected Population of Saint Lucia, 1980–2030 16
Table D: Current and Projected School-Age Population (5–14) in Saint Lucia, 1980–2030 17
Table E: Current and Projected Labour Force in Saint Lucia, 1980–2030 17
Table F: Current and Projected Elderly Population (65 or Older) in Saint Lucia, 1980–2030 17

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Saint Lucia: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

Saint Lucia Yesterday

Historically, Saint Lucia, with an area of 233 square miles, has not been considered overpopulated. In 1850, population density was a mere 15 persons per square mile; even in 1950, that density was still only 49 persons per square mile. Data for the late nineteenth century are sketchy at best, but still yield sufficient information to allow an examination of the demographic changes that have transpired over the past century and a quarter.

In 1843, a total of 20,694 persons lived in Saint Lucia, and by the time of the 1901 British Commonwealth census, the population had reached 49,883. Assuming that both censuses were comparatively accurate, this means an annual rate of growth of 1.5 percent. Given that both fertility and mortality were undoubtedly quite high (crude birth rates averaging 45 per 1,000 population and crude death rates averaging 25 per 1,000 would not be out of the ordinary for that period), some emigration must have also taken place, perhaps to such countries as British Guiana and Trinidad. An average annual net emigration rate for the period of 5 per 1,000 might well have been in effect.

Table 1: Population of Saint Lucia, 1843–1921

Year	Number
1843	20,694
1851	24,185
1861	26,674
1871	31,610
1881	38,551
1891	42,220
1901	49,883
1911	48,637
1921	51,505

Decennial censuses were undertaken from 1851 to 1921 (see Table 1) and again in 1946. There have been decennial enumerations of the population of Saint Lucia since 1960. These data allow for a fairly reliable analysis of the island's changing population from 1901 to 1960.

Population growth for the first two decades of this century was practically nonexistent. The 51,505 individuals enumerated in 1921 represented a gain of but 1,622 over the 1901 count—zero growth, for all practical purposes. Undoubtedly fertility and mortality remained high during this period. Death rates in particular must have been high especially during the 1918–20 worldwide influenza epidemic. Nevertheless, a zero rate of growth necessarily means that there was considerable emigration from the island. Interestingly, a similar pattern of no growth during the early twentieth century has been noted in other Caribbean islands. Barbados, for example, saw its population decline from 182,867 in 1891 to 156,774 in 1921. The movement of people away from the region apparently gained momentum after the turn of the century.

The 1.2 percent annual rate of growth observed between 1921 and 1946 stands in marked contrast to the situation 20 years earlier. At the 1946 census, Saint Lucia's population had reached 70,113—an increase of 18,608 over the 1921 count. The crude birth rate was 37.8 per 1,000 and the crude death rate was 15.1, yielding an annual rate of natural increase of 2.3 percent.

If this approximate rate was in effect over the 25 years preceding 1946, as is quite possible, this would indicate a continuing fairly high level of emigration of about 600 persons (net) per year. Only through such movements could the population growth rate have remained at 1.2 percent per year. By 1926, the Panama Canal had been long completed and demands for Caribbean workers had diminished. Also, the United States' quota laws

of the 1920s had the effect of limiting emigration to that country. However, movements from the Caribbean to the United Kingdom may have increased, and movements from Saint Lucia to the neighbouring larger islands may also have grown.

A monumental study of population change in the Caribbean undertaken by G.H. Roberts and Jack Harewood serves as the basis for the 1946–60 population analysis.* These eminent Caribbean demographers estimated the population size and vital statistics for each English-speaking Caribbean country for every year between 1946 and 1960. (Their data for Saint Lucia are given in Appendix Tables A and B.)

Over the 14 years between 1946 and 1960, the average annual rate of growth in Saint Lucia was 1.4 percent and by the latter year the population had reached 87,350. However, a substantial proportion of that growth occurred in the first four years. Indeed, more people were added to the population between 1946 and 1950 than between 1950 and 1960. To a considerable extent this can be accounted for by changes in emigration levels. The rate of natural increase (that is, the difference between births and deaths) actually grew over the period, from 2.3 percent in 1946 to 3.4 percent in 1960. The crude birth rate, in particular, went up from 35.6 per 1,000 population in 1950 to 48.5 in 1960, while the crude death rate fell only slightly, from 15.0 to 14.6.

Net international migration, however, which was slightly positive between 1946 and 1950, turned increasingly negative after 1950. Between 1956 and 1960 net emigration amounted to 10,820 people, almost as much as the surplus of births over deaths. For the entire 1946–60 period, net emigration equaled 42 percent of natural increase. This new migration stream had the United Kingdom as its destination and were it not for this large movement away from the island, Saint Lucia's population would have soared to over 100,000 by 1960.

Between 1960 and 1970 the annual rate of population growth increased over that of the previous decade—from 0.9 percent to 1.3 percent. Fertility remained high, at about 45 per 1,000 population. The high level of people leaving the island, which apparently rose in the mid-1950s, continued through the 1960s. The countries of destination no doubt changed during the decade, however, particularly as a result of the Caribbean Immigration Act of 1962, which severely limited movements from the West Indies to the United Kingdom. On the other hand, entry requirements to the United States and Canada were eased during the 1960s and emigration to those countries began to grow (see Table 2 for U.S. data).

Table 2: Permanent Saint Lucian-Born Immigrants Admitted to the United States, 1960–79

Year	Number
1960–64	457
1965–69	773
1970–74	1,243
1975–79	2,727

The major contributor to increased population growth in the 1960s was the rapid decline in mortality. The crude death rate, estimated at 14.6 in 1960, fell to about 8.4 by 1970. The combination of continued high levels of fertility and falling mortality resulted in substantial natural increase that more than compensated for continued high levels of emigration. As a result of these variations in demographic behaviour, the population of Saint Lucia passed the 100,000 mark, for the first time in its history, in 1970.

*G.H. Roberts and Jack Harewood, *Estimates of Intercensal Population by Age and Sex and Revised Vital Rates for British Caribbean Countries, 1946–1960* (University of West Indies, 1964).